

The Amendment of the Specification

In Amendment B, applicants proposed to modify the formula for alum shown in paragraph 33 of the specification. Alum is the crystal modifier specified by claims 9 through 14. Paragraph 33 states that the preferred form of alum is known as “papermakers” alum. In the specification, a formula for alum that appears in paragraphs 14, 30 and 33, wherein alum is depicted as containing 14 waters of hydration. In Table 3, line 1 (page 32), alum is defined as “aluminum sulfate hexadecahydrate” or 16 waters of hydration. The literature indicates that “papermakers” alum is a mixture of aluminum sulfate compounds containing from 14 to 18 waters of hydration, and that the average is about 16 waters of hydration. Those skilled in the art are aware that alum is a mixture of aluminum sulfate compounds containing an average of about 16 waters of hydration. Accordingly it is believed that the specification, as filed, clearly informs one skilled in the art how to practice applicants’ best mode of invention using “papermakers” alum and that an amendment to the specification is unnecessary.

On Page 2 of the Action, the Examiner objected to the proposed amendment of the specification as introducing “new matter.” Because the specification discloses alum as having either 14 or 16 waters of hydration, it would not be “new matter” to amend the disclosure of 14 waters to read 16 waters. However, because the amendment is deemed unnecessary, the proposed amendment is withdrawn. Applicants thank the Examiner for his consideration on this point.